

Interstate 15 Express Lanes Corridor Newsletter

Express Lanes Usage is on the Rise in 2010

By **Gustavo Dallarda**, Corridor Director

Completion of the Middle Segment of the Interstate 15 (I-15) Express Lanes brought commuters much needed congestion relief and faster travel times.

According to SANDAG, an average of 20,000 vehicles now use the Middle Segment Express Lanes each weekday - a 72% increase from 2008. Because 80% of the vehicles using the new Express Lanes carry two or more passengers, this increased ridership translates to approximately 30,000 fewer vehicles in the general purpose lanes each day.

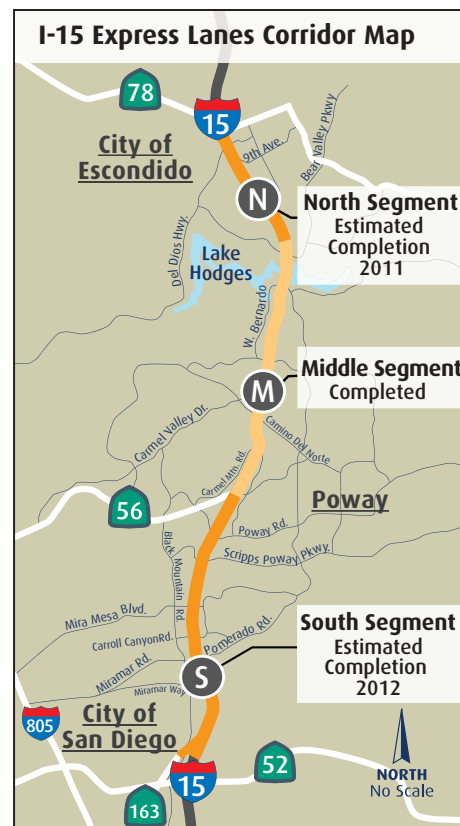
The Middle Segment Express Lanes also increased the dependability of commuter transit service. Currently five express bus routes travel on the Express Lanes carrying an average of 1,700 passengers during peak travel times to major employment centers in the region.

You can save time, gas and money too by using the I-15 Express Lanes for your own commute. To join a carpool, vanpool or plan a trip on an express bus route, visit www.sdcommute.com. If you are a solo driver, open a FasTrak account at fastrak.511sd.com.

Please read on to learn about our construction progress on the North and South Segments, which will extend the Express Lanes north to State Route 78 and south to State Route 163.



Vehicular usage of the new Middle Segment Express Lanes increased 72% since 2008.



Important Construction Milestones Reached in 2009

Throughout 2009 construction on the North and South Segments focused on widening I-15 so that traffic could be shifted to the outer lanes of the freeway in 2010. Shifting traffic will allow work to begin on the new Express Lanes in the median of the freeway.

In order to widen the freeway and prepare for the Express Lanes, construction crews:

- ▶ built new retaining walls,
- ▶ built new sound walls to mitigate noise caused by the freeway,
- ▶ widened freeway bridges over local roads, and
- ▶ rebuilt on and off-ramps to accommodate freeway expansion.

Construction crews working from State Route 163 to Miramar Road completed freeway widening three months ahead of schedule and are now actively building two additional Express Lanes in the median (see photo below). Reaching this important construction milestone means fewer ramp and local road

closures that impede access and impact travel times.

In 2010 we will continue to keep you informed as we reach new construction milestones. For these quarterly newsletters and regular construction updates, please visit:

www.keepsandiegomoving.com



View looking north towards Miramar Way: Construction of the new Express Lanes in the median of the freeway is underway.

January 2010

Express Lanes Project Received Four Prestigious Awards Last Year

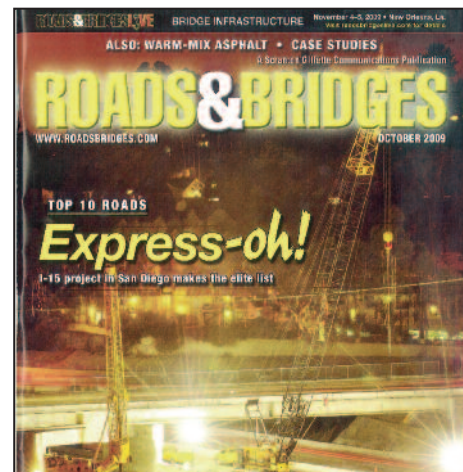
The I-15 construction team is proud to announce that the Express Lanes earned top honors regionally, statewide and nationally in 2009.

Region: The Middle Segment of the I-15 Express Lanes won the Heavy Highway category of the Associated General Contractors' 2009 Build San Diego Awards.

State: The California Transportation Foundation presented the I-15 team with the 2009 TRANNY Award for Freeway Project of the Year for the newly completed Middle Segment.

Nation: The National Association of Regional Councils selected the I-15 Express Lanes project for the Major Metro General Achievement Award. This award recognizes excellence in innovation, regional cooperation and impact. Additionally, *Roads and Bridges* magazine named the I-15 Express Lanes the number four road nationwide on its list of Top Ten Roads in 2009 (see photo to the right).

The I-15 construction team thanks our partners and the I-15 community for an award-winning year of construction. We look forward to another successful year working with you to improve mobility along the I-15 corridor.



The I-15 Express Lanes project featured in the October issue of Roads and Bridges magazine.

Bridge Reconstruction: 2009 Year in Review and a Look Ahead at 2010

Last spring Carroll Canyon Road bridge and Poway Road/Rancho Peñasquitos Boulevard bridge were temporarily reduced to two lanes in order to demolish and reconstruct the first half of each bridge. Throughout the summer construction crews were busy working on the underground support system for each bridge.

Last fall drivers saw large metal beams erected over the freeway at both bridges (see Carroll Canyon Road bridge to the right). These beams are the temporary support system for the new portions of the bridges. The first half of each bridge is on schedule to be completed in spring 2010.

At that time, traffic will be shifted to the newly completed sections of the bridges so that reconstruction can begin on the opposite side of each bridge. This work is scheduled to be completed in 2011.

Bridge construction can cause traffic delays due to reduced roadway capacity. We continuously monitor traffic patterns and make adjustments when possible to help alleviate congestion.

For example, all of the traffic signals at both bridges have been adjusted to keep traffic moving during construction. We appreciate your patience and reassure you that our construction crews are working to complete construction quickly.

For a listing of the daily I-15 road closures related to this bridge work and other construction activities, visit:

www.keepsandiegomoving.com



Temporary bridge support beams over I-15 at Carroll Canyon Road.

Question of the Quarter

What is Caltrans doing to conserve and protect water resources during I-15 construction?

Many San Diegans are aware that our region is in a drought. Community members have asked what Caltrans is doing to conserve water and protect our water sources from stormwater runoff caused by freeway construction. Caltrans works to conserve water along the I-15 corridor by using reclaimed water where it is available and by selecting drought resistant landscaping where it is appropriate. Additionally, Caltrans follows comprehensive Storm Water Pollution Prevention Plans (SWPPPs) which outline important practices such as installing fiber rolls on a slope to prevent soil and pollutants from running off into our local bodies of water.



Construction crews placed fiber rolls on a slope near Citracado Parkway to prevent runoff from reaching our local water bodies.